(iii) 25% central subsidy is provided under the Macro Management scheme to the State Government for various programmes in the horticulture sector including development of Fruits, Vegetables, Commercial Floriculture, Mushroom, Spices, Cashew, Cocoa and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Legislation on cow slaughter

†495. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 585, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2003 and state:

(a) by when the Central legislation which is being contemplated to be enacted by Government to ban the cow slaughter, keeping in view the deep respect and feelings of the people of this country towards cow, would be introduced; and

(b) the reason for delay in introducing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Most States in the country have legislation banning cow slaughter as it is a State subject.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Foodgrains production

496. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of growth in the production of foodgrains is progressing continously during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of production of foodgrains during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to take in order to give enough remunerative prices for the foodgrains during procurement; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether the entry of the foodgrains and other essential commodities into the country from abroad will be controlled to safeguard the interest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The required information is given in Statement I and Statement II (*See* below):

(c) With a view to encourage higher investment in agriculture and boost agricultural production, the Government announces in each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities.

In order to protect the farmers from fall in market prices below the MSP level, the Government organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (Wheat, Paddy and Coarse Cereals) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), (Pulses and Oilseeds), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments for procurement of commodities for which MSP has been announced. The wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are constantly monitored and instances of market prices ruling below the MSPs are referred to the respective designated nodal agencies for undertaking procurement operations.

Besides, the Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS), which is under implementation on pilot basis, seeks to provide income protection to the farmers by integrating the mechanism of insuring production as well as market risks.

(d) Subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports in 2001, the Government has increased import duties on a number of agricultural items to provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers. The import duties on wheat, rice, maize, edible oils, pulses, cotton, spices, tea, coffee, areca nut and apple have been increased in the last 5 years.

The import of sensitive agricultural commodities is continuously monitored by the Government on regular basis. In the on-going negotiations on Agreement on Agriculture of World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Government is making all efforts to maintain necessary protection to the domestic producers from subsidized imports. Efforts are also being made to enlarge market access for export of Indian agricultural products.

Statement-I

Growth rates of production of foodgrains during 2000-01, 2001-02 *and* 2002-03

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Production (Million Tonnes)	196.81	212.85	174.19
Growth Rate (%)	-6.19	8.15	-18.16

Statement-II

State-wise production of foodgrains during 2000-01, 2001-02 *and* 2002-03

State	Production in Million Tonnes		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Andhra Pradesh	16.03	14.84	10.45
Arunachal Pradesh	0.22	0.22	0.24
Assam	4.17	4.02	3.89
Bihar	12.06	11.68	10.27
Chhattisgarh	2.90	5.78	3.16
Goa	0.15	0.14	0.14
Gujarat	2.54	4.91	3.62
Haryana	13.29	13.30	12.34
Himachal Pradesh	1.11	1.60	1.14
Jammu and Kashmir	1.11	1.33	1.20
Jharkhand	2.01	2.24	2.68
Karnataka	10.99	8.70	6.83
Kerala	0.77	0.72	0.71
Madhya Pradesh	10.19	13.61	9.75
Maharashtra	10.13	11.19	10.82
Manipur	0.40	0.40	0.39
Meghalaya	0.22	0.22	0.22
Mizoram	0.12	0.13	0.13
Nagaland	0.32	0.36	0.39
Orissa	4.98	7.56	3.56
Punjab	25.32	24.89	23.49
Rajasthan	10.04	14.0	7.57
Sikkim	0.10	0.10	0.10
Tamil Nadu	8.62	7.73	6.93
Tripura	0.52	0.60	0.56
Uttar Pradesh	42.71	44.14	36.30
Uttaranchal	1.73	1.71	1.56
West Bengal	13.82	16.50	15.52
A & N Islands	0.03	0.03	0.03
D & N Haveli	0.03	0.04	0.03
Delhi	0.11	0.12	0.08
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.01	0.01
Pondicherry	0.07	0.07	0.08
All India	196.81	212.85	174.19

NOTE: The steep decline in production in 2002-03 reflect impact of the severe drought that affected several States/regions in the country in 2002.